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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 28 July 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw urgent attention to the dangerous and rising tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of Occupied Palestine due to the illegal actions, provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, including in particular by extremist Israeli settlers and religious zealots, against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places. Civilian casualties continue to be caused by the violence of Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers, and recent incidents are aggravating religious sensitivities and the fragile situation on the ground, threatening to precipitate a religious conflict and further destabilize the region, which is already experiencing unprecedented turmoil.

For two consecutive days, extremist Israelis escorted by occupying forces broke into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound (Al-Haram Al-Sharif), the third-holiest site in Islam, in Occupied East Jerusalem. They prevented the entry of Palestinian worshippers and instigated violent confrontations. In this volatile context, on 26 July, an Israeli settler woman shamefully insulted Islam's Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) with the clear aim of provoking Palestinian worshippers. This incident was caught on a cell phone camera and made public, setting off angry reactions resulting in clashes between Palestinians and Israeli extremists at the Holy Site.

In another blatant attempt to ignite tensions, a group of 70 Israeli extremists, protected by occupying forces, stormed the compound via the Moroccan Gate on 27 July. Dozens of Palestinian worshippers, as well as 19 Al-Aqsa Mosque guards, were hit with rubber-coated bullets, rods and rifle butts and suffered pepper spray and tear gas inhalation, and the occupying forces detained several Palestinians. In this regard, it must be noted that over the past two months, Israel has committed at least 184 violations against holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem and Al-Khalil, displaying utter disrespect for its obligations under international law and disregard

for the repeated international calls to calm the situation and defuse tensions in and around holy sites.

Concurrently, illegal actions overtly intended to assert Israeli control over the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound continue unabated. Israeli extremists and government officials persist with their provocative rhetoric regarding plans to spatially and temporally divide the compound, which must be firmly rejected. We reiterate the imperative of respect for the long-standing, historic status quo at the Holy Site, agreed to and respected by all parties for decades, and we recall the Security Council's determination that all such measures by Israel, the occupying Power, "to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the recent 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith".

In the light of the volatile conditions on the ground, we are compelled to again caution of the extreme, far-reaching risks of these illegal Israeli actions, provocations and incitement at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. We underscore in this regard the statement on 27 July by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov: "Provocative actions and language carry the seed of violence and ultimately undermine the ability of worshippers of all faiths to have access to their respective Holy Sites. Respect for the status quo is in the interest of all and is essential for stability."

Israel's continued use of lethal force against Palestinian civilians is further raising tensions throughout Occupied Palestine. On 24 July, in a heinous crime reflecting the wanton force and disregard for Palestinian life characterizing the behaviour of Israeli occupying forces, soldiers shot and killed a 53-year-old man, Falah Hammad Abu Maria, and injured his two sons in the town of Beit Omar, north of Al-Khalil. Occupying forces and undercover units raided Abu Maria's home and opened live fire inside, injuring his 22-year-old son, Mohammed, with two bullets in the pelvis. When Abu Maria attempted to aid his injured son, soldiers shot him twice in the chest, killing him in cold blood. Abu Maria's other son, Ahmad, age 25, was also injured with bullet shrapnel in the chest. Israeli occupying forces later injured eight mourners as clashes erupted after Abu Maria's funeral.

A day earlier, occupying forces shot and killed 21-year-old Mohammed Ahmad Alawneh with a live bullet in his chest during an Israeli raid in the town of Burqin, west of Jenin. Yesterday, 27 July, another Palestinian teenager lost his life to this depraved Israeli violence when occupying forces executed Mohammed Abu Latifa, age 18, during a so-called arrest raid in the Qalandiya refugee camp. Israeli soldiers detained Mohammed after shooting him in the feet, then shot him in the chest and tied him with electrical cords. Forensic evidence reveals that some of his body parts were also fractured as a result of the assault by soldiers. Abu Latifa was killed by the occupying forces and did not fall from a rooftop, as Israeli soldiers falsely claimed. Abu Latifa is the eighteenth Palestinian to be killed by Israeli occupying forces this year in the West Bank; four civilians have been killed since the start of this month.

We also regret to inform you that Israeli occupying forces also continue to kill and injure Palestinian children, carrying on defiantly with the abuse and violation of child rights in spite of the warnings in the recent report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. On 3 July, Israeli soldiers shot to death a 17-year-old child, Mohammed Hani Al-Kasbah, near Qalandiya checkpoint. Video and forensic evidence concluded that Al-Kasbah had been shot in the back at close range after

throwing a stone and then running away from troops. The killing of Mohammed brought unbearable tragedy to his family, which had already lost two younger sons, Samer, age 15, and Yasser, age 11, to the brutality of this immoral occupation. "Every day there is a martyr, not just in our family, but for all Palestinian families," the boy's father, Sami Kasbah, said, recalling the moment he learned that his son had been killed. "Someone is hurt, someone is killed and someone is arrested. This is what happens; that's the occupation."

In another example of Israel's deliberate and condemnable policy of targeting Palestinian children, occupying forces shot and injured a Palestinian child, Amjad Farouq Abu Khalid, age 17, with a live bullet to the leg as demonstrators were dispersed during the weekly peaceful protest against Israel's illegal settlements and wall in Kafr Qaddum village, near Qalqiliya, on 24 July. A day earlier, a Palestinian child, Yahiya Al-Amudi, age 10, lost an eye after being shot in the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet by an Israeli soldier near a military checkpoint in Shufat refugee camp, in Occupied East Jerusalem. The boy was subsequently hospitalized with a fractured skull, jaw and left ear. He had surgery to remove his left eye and remains in critical condition.

Such Israeli assaults against Palestinian civilians continue with total impunity. Records indicate that since the start of 2014, Israeli occupying forces have injured an average of 35 Palestinians every week. Civilian casualties also continue to be caused by the near-daily terror acts carried out by Israeli settlers. On 1 July, settlers attacked and injured 60-year-old Mahmoud Saleh Nofal from the village of Ras Karkar, west of Ramallah. Nofal was surrounded by a settler mob, who assaulted him with pepper spray and violently beat him with rods, causing bruises over his body. In another incident on 7 July, a group of terrorist settlers attacked the Masri family as they were travelling from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Their car was attacked by settlers, who threatened them with a knife and assaulted them. Among the people in the car were the elderly Masri father and a pregnant 30-year-old woman, who suffered a state of extreme fear, resulting in a miscarriage. Israeli settlers also continue to routinely intimidate the Palestinian civilian population, especially farmers and herding communities, impeding access to their farms and fields, vandalizing and destroying Palestinian property, especially agricultural land and olive groves, and severely marring the landscape and destroying livelihoods.

Israeli media have also been increasingly inciting violence against Palestinians by publishing advertisements and commissioning articles encouraging occupying forces to kill Palestinians. A racist campaign dubbed "0404 Broadcast" encourages Israeli soldiers to kill Palestinians without question. One poster in the campaign exhorts: "If you feel the slightest danger to your life from stones or a Molotov cocktail, do not think twice; do not hesitate; just kill." We hold the Israeli Government responsible for all of these crimes, provocations and incitement and the rabid culture of impunity in which Israeli soldiers and settlers so abhorrently assault Palestinian civilians and violate their rights and dignity. We continue to call for perpetrators to be held accountable for these crimes against the Palestinian people living under this merciless, illegal foreign occupation.

Here, we must also again raise alarm about Israel's illegal settlement campaign, which is severely destroying the Palestinian Territory's contiguity and fragmenting and isolating Palestinian cities, towns and villages into disconnected Bantustans throughout the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which

has been virtually cut off from its natural Palestinian environs. The occupying Power continues unabated its illegal construction of settlements and the annexation wall, confiscation and razing of Palestinian lands, demolition of homes and forced displacement of Palestinian civilians. In contempt of the will of the international community and in blatant rejection of the two-State solution, Israel is entrenching its colonization and occupation of the Palestinian land, in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, with total impunity.

In this regard, we recall that 9 July marked the eleventh anniversary of the authoritative advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Wall, in which the Court called on Israel to cease construction of the Wall "including in and around East Jerusalem; dismantle the sections already constructed; and repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto". Yet, Israel persists with its unlawful construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and continues to carry out and impose countless illegal measures comprising the Wall's associated regime, in flagrant disrespect of the advisory opinion and grave breach of numerous provisions of international law.

Susiya village symbolizes this long-standing illegitimate colonial policy in Occupied Palestine. The village has been displaced three times in the past 30 years, and its Palestinian residents again faced forced transfer as the occupying Power is advancing plans to demolish the village's 80 structures, including homes, a clinic, animal shelters and storerooms, many supported by international donors over the years. This illegal action, intended to facilitate further encroachment by the nearby illegal Israeli settlement and settlers on Palestinian land and rights, would displace and dispossess at least 340 Palestinians, already Palestine refugees forcibly expelled from their homes in 1948 and forcibly displaced again in 1986 and 2001, enduring recurrent displacement across generations. Nasser Nawajha, a Palestinian Bedouin of Susiya, has stated: "My father was expelled from his home in 1948; I was expelled from where I was born in 1986. I don't want to see this happening to my children."

This destructive and illegal Israeli settlement campaign, especially in so-called "Area C", which constitutes 60 per cent of the West Bank, has forcibly displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians from their land, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. From 2006 until June 2015, Israel demolished at least 876 Palestinian residential units in the West Bank alone, forcibly displacing 4,105 people, including at least 2,011 children. Nearly 500 Palestinian structures, including homes, were demolished in "Area C" over the past year alone, displacing 969 Palestinian residents. On the grim situation of Susiya and other Palestinian villages in "Area C", the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Robert Piper, recently stated: "Susiya is emblematic of a pattern of injustice that is repeating itself across many parts of the West Bank. Too many communities are coming under multiple threats and intimidation — by legal process, by bulldozer, by settler violence — to relocate completely or relinquish surrounding agricultural and grazing lands on which their livelihoods depend. The international community cannot stand by and witness these acts in silence."

In a similar situation, the Israeli Government has delivered dozens of eviction and "stop-work" orders to Palestinian Bedouins in the Abu al-Nawwar village, east

of Jerusalem, in a plan that would affect the homes of 40 families. The Palestinian Bedouin families were notified that they must move to the Bawwabat al-Quds area within a month. The area is on the outskirts of Abu Dis, where the Israeli occupation plans to forcibly transfer Bedouin families currently living in the so-called "E1 zone", which covers some 12,000 dunams (12 square kilometres) north-east of Jerusalem and west of the illegal Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim. The so-called "Maale Adumim Plan" aims to completely separate Occupied East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, notably articles 49 and 33.

All such actions further prove Israel's deceit about any intent to end its illegal occupation of the State of Palestine. Israel remains unwilling to stop its settlement activities in compliance with international law and the international community's calls for a complete cessation, and remains unwilling to stop Israeli settler violence and terror against Palestinians, instead aiding, abetting and protecting settlers in the perpetration of these crimes. Israeli government officials have compounded such provocations and incitement by displaying total disrespect for Israel's obligations under international law and disregard for the unanimous demands to immediately freeze its illegal settlement campaign and save the two-State solution. Just one example suffices to convey this point: on 23 July, Tzipi Hotovely, Israel's new Deputy Foreign Minister, delivered a defiant message to the international community, stating: "This land is ours. All of it is ours."

Such actions and messages must not remain unheeded or unaddressed. Israeli leaders must be held responsible for their words and deeds that are seriously undermining the efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to this conflict and further destabilizing the situation, to the detriment of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and threatening peace and security regionally and globally. It is imperative that the international community take the necessary measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of its illegal policies and practices, including with regard to the sensitive and volatile situation in Occupied East Jerusalem. We appeal to the Security Council in specific to give immediate attention to this dangerous situation and to act now to uphold international law, including as articulated in relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, to salvage the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and to salvage the prospects for peace and security.

This letter is in follow-up to our 547 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 July 2015 (A/ES-10/684-S/2015/521), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, for which it must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 31 July 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that the situation of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation remains dire owing to the repressive, destructive and colonial policies and practices that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in deliberate, systematic and grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and with total impunity.

Here, I must bring to your urgent attention the details of the heinous terrorist crime committed this morning by a group of terrorist settlers against a Palestinian family in the village of Duma, near Nablus. A group of Israeli terrorist settlers smashed the windows of two homes in Duma before throwing flammable liquids and Molotov cocktails inside. Ali Saad Dawabsha, an 18-month-old infant, was trapped inside the family's home as the fire spread, and died shortly after sustaining serious burns. His parents and four-year-old brother were left with severe burns. The mother is in critical condition, with third-degree burns covering 90 per cent of her body. The father had burns on 80 per cent of his body and the four-year-old son on 60 per cent, with all of their lives in danger.

The fact is that, whether at the hands of Israeli occupying forces or Israeli settlers, the lives of the Palestinian people in Occupied Palestine are in constant danger. Their fundamental human rights are being grossly violated as they endure horrific abuses to their bodies, minds and spirits and the destruction and usurpation of their land and properties. No segment of the Palestinian civilian population has been spared — whether children, women or men, the elderly or disabled, prisoners or detainees, or refugees or the displaced. With obvious intent, Israel continues to pursue policies and measures aimed at controlling every aspect of Palestinian life, forcibly subjugating the Palestinian people, collectively punishing, intimidating and dehumanizing them, causing harm, including death and injury to persons and destruction to property, and entrenching its illegitimate occupation.

We recall with sorrow the heinous crime perpetrated a year ago in the same month of July against a Palestinian child, Mohammed Abu Khdeir, 16 years of age, which shocked our consciences and broke our hearts. Mohammed was abducted from the street outside his home in Occupied East Jerusalem, beaten and driven to a forest, where he was burned alive by a gang of terrorist Israeli settlers.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms these heinous crimes, we hold the Israeli Government responsible for this terror and the culture of impunity in which Israeli settlers have so vilely and continuously assaulted Palestinian civilians and we join Mohammed's parents in demanding accountability for the killing of their child and in demanding justice for him and for all the Palestinian children who have been brutally killed by the occupying forces and settlers in the name of this illegitimate and belligerent occupation.

In this regard, we insist again that the Israeli Government, the Israeli occupying forces and Israeli settler militias belong on the list of grave violators of the rights of children in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, and we will not relent in calling for such listing in the face of ongoing violations and crimes against our innocent and defenceless children.

We expect the international community, especially the Security Council, to condemn these heinous acts and crimes committed against our people and to immediately act to stop the continuation of these crimes and to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since Israel, the occupying Power, has forfeited its responsibility in this regard.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 548 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 July 2015 (A/ES-10/685-S/2015/571), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, for which it must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 11 August 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your urgent attention to the precarious situation in the Occupied State of Palestine owing to the illegal actions, provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, in particular acts of terror against the Palestinian people and their properties, by Israeli terrorist settlers in violation of international law, human rights law and international humanitarian law, with total impunity. The most recent incident was a vicious terrorist attack against the Dawabsha family, which took place in the village of Duma, near Nablus, on 31 July. In this horrific incident, a group of Israeli terrorist settlers set the Dawabsha family home on fire, resulting in the murder of Ali Saad Dawabsha, an 18-month old infant, who was burned to death. This malicious terror act also killed Ali's father, Saad Dawabsha, 32 years of age, who sustained burns over 80 per cent of his body, and, sadly, succumbed to his injuries on 8 August. Ali's mother, Riham, 30 years of age, and brother, Ahmad, four years of age, continue to struggle for their lives as a result of third-degree burns covering most of their bodies, which were sustained from this terrorist arson act.

The Palestinian leadership strongly condemns settler attacks against Palestinian civilians and their properties and holds the Israeli Government responsible for this terror, incitement, and provocation. We reiterate what President Abbas said in his statement before the meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers, affirming that "If the Israeli government does not take steps to catch the perpetrators of the crime against the Dawabsha family, it will be a partner of these crimes." Despite international condemnation and calls to hold accountable the perpetrators of this heinous crime, the Israeli Government has systematically failed to redress the grievances and to hold the responsible Israeli terrorist settlers accountable for this attack. On the contrary, the occupying Power continues, by word and deed, to deliberately maintain and incite a culture of terrorism and apartheid against Palestinian civilians and their properties, resulting in undeterred settler violence and

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the continued killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians, including women and children.

On 8 August, extremist Israeli settlers hurled firebombs at a Palestinian home, perpetuating yet another terror attack. The home belongs to Mahmoud Fazza Al-Kaabna in the village of Duma, the same village as the Dawabsha family home. The firebombs landed on the outer wall of the home near a window. In another incident, on 4 August, four Israeli terrorist settlers in a car attempted to kidnap Ahmad Nader Qaqour, 8 years of age, from the town of Hizma, north of Jerusalem. Ahmad's father, Nader Qaqour, who saved his son, said "When the settlers drove near Ahmad, I rushed towards him and asked him to back off." Following the exchange, Nader explained that the car then turned and headed to a nearby illegal Israeli settlement. Furthermore, on 2 August, Israeli settlers set fire to hundreds of acres of land surrounding the village of Burin, in southern Nablus. In a separate incident on the same day, Israeli settlers set fire to another area to the south of Burin, where the blaze rapidly spread to the southern village of Einabus. Since the beginning of 2015, records indicate that Israeli extremist settlers have carried out at least 120 attacks against Palestinians in the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and that there have been over 11,000 attacks since 2004. Such attacks by settlers against Palestinian civilians continue with total impunity and without redress, as is evident from the fact that over 85 per cent of incidents of settler violence, where an investigation actually develops, are closed without indictments.

In this connection, we must also reiterate that we cannot separate Israeli settler violence from Israel's illegal settlements, which are vastly spread across the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as international criminal law, as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and in contempt of the will of the international community, and in blatant rejection of the two-State solution, which is severely destroying the Palestinian Territory's contiguity and entrenching Israel's colonization and occupation of Palestinian land, with total impunity.

In addition to the wave of Israeli terrorism emanating from Israel's illegal settlements by their settler population, the Palestinian people continue to face the deliberate and systematic killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians, including children, a direct manifestation of Israel's illegal occupation, which further raises tensions throughout Occupied Palestine. On 10 August, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Anas Muntaser Taha, 20 years of age, southwest of Ramallah. On 31 July, Israeli occupying forces killed Laith Al-Khaldi, 17 years of age, near Ramallah. Laith was shot in the chest and underwent two surgeries before succumbing to his injuries. Israeli occupying forces also shot to death Hamid Al-Masri, 17 years of age, near Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza. In a separate incident on 8 August, Israeli occupying forces injured Mahir Shatat, 14 years of age. Mahir was shot in the cheek by live fire. Since the beginning of 2015, Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 23 and injured at least 1,201 Palestinians in the Occupied State of Palestine. Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry on with its abuses and violations against the Palestinian people, including children, defying international and human rights law and in spite of warnings from the international community, including the recent report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict.

Furthermore, I must raise awareness to a recent Israeli law, passed on 30 July, that directly affects the rights and dignity of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli occupation prisons. The law permits the force feeding of Palestinians on hunger strike in peaceful protest of their detention and occupation prison conditions. It is well known that this forcible act directly violates international law and international norms and is another form of torture and coercion. To this end, we call on Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately repeal this law, which violates the human rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. We demand that the occupying Power put an end to the arrest of Palestinian civilians and their abuse and torture in captivity, and call for the release of all Palestinians who have been imprisoned and detained and call for respect for international humanitarian and human rights law.

We therefore reiterate our call for international protection for the Palestinian people. International humanitarian law and the commitments undertaken for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict, including children and women, must be upheld as a matter of urgency in the State of Palestine, where civilian lives are under constant threat by the occupying Power, which has not only grossly abrogated its obligations but also clearly relinquished them.

We again call on the international community, in particular the Security Council, to act immediately to end Israel's impunity and resolve this conflict, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The Israeli occupation must end, and the Palestinian people must realize justice and their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom. The Palestinian leadership will continue to use all legitimate, peaceful means to achieve those goals. The Security Council thus cannot continue to be absolved of its responsibilities and must act urgently to avert further destabilization of this situation, with its far-reaching consequences for regional and international security and stability and the prospects to realize a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

This letter is in follow-up to our 549 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 31 July 2015 (A/ES-10/686-S/2015/589), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people, by Israel, the occupying Power, for which it must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 18 August 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that on 18 August 2015, in Ramallah, the Council of Ministers of the State of Palestine held its weekly meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, and issued a statement that included the following points:

- The Council condemned the execution of Rafiq Kamil al-Taj, aged 21, of Tubas, who was shot five times and killed by occupation forces near Bayta. It also condemned the execution of Muhammad Bassam Mustafa Amshah al-Atrash, aged 22, of Kafr Ra'i, at the military checkpoint of Za'tarah south of Nablus. The Council rejected the spurious pretexts put forward by the occupation forces to justify the execution of Palestinian citizens. The Council emphasized that the Israeli Government bore responsibility for those crimes, which were the result of its aggressive and terrorist policy of inciting the murder of Palestinians. Israeli ministers have openly stated that occupation soldiers should kill Palestinians. Those statements have encouraged terrorist settler gangs to follow suit and commit yet more terrorist crimes against the defenceless Palestinian people in occupied East Jerusalem and other governorates of the nation. The Council urged the institutions of the international community, particularly the Security Council, to assume their moral and legal responsibility to protect the Palestinian people from the daily Israeli crimes against its citizens.

- The Council condemned the demolition and confiscation of 21 housing and farming units in the areas of Khan al-Ahmar, Za'im, Bir Maskub and Wadi Sunaysil in occupied East Jerusalem. It also condemned the serving of final evacuation orders to 20 families in the Abu Nawar community. The Council deplored the policy of forcibly displacing 46 Bedouin communities in the so-called E1 zone for the benefit of settlers. It called on the international

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community to fulfil its responsibility under international law, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and other relevant international instruments, which require Israel to bring an end to all illegal and inhumane measures against civilians, including home demolitions and displacement. The international community should also take action to protect Palestinian housing communities that live under threat from the occupation.

- The Council condemned the series of daily violations of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which have also affected women and children; the occupation police has compiled a list of 20 Palestinian civilian women forbidden from entering the mosque. The Council commended the courage and resilience of the children of the summer camps in the city of Jerusalem, who prevented groups of extremist terrorist settlers from reaching the Dome of the Rock esplanade. The settler groups, which belonged to the so-called Temple Mount Faithful, had attempted to raid the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Mughrabi Gate along with a substantial occupation police escort.

- The Council condemned the actions of the so-called Nature and Parks Authority which, along with large number of occupation police force members, raided a 7-dunam plot of land belonging to the Al-Husayni and Al-Ansari families. The Authority began installing barbed wire around the land, which is adjacent to the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the north-eastern side, thereby separating it from the graveyard with a view to absorbing it. That action was part of a series of confiscations that have been carried out by settler groups and the Israeli Government in and around Jerusalem.

- The Council condemned the current settler attack on the town of Silwan and, in particular, the Batn al-Hawa quarter. It also condemned the Israeli occupation plan overseen by the extremist organization Ateret Cohanim with the purpose of gaining control of some 100 Palestinian housing units, which are home to 1,500 Jerusalemite citizens. The Israeli Government and its various settler extensions have called for bids to build a synagogue to be known as "Jewel of Israel" in the old town of occupied Jerusalem. The Council stressed that this daily encroachment on the part of the settlers is taking place with the blessing of the Israeli Government and its extremist components. The Israeli Government has allocated hundreds of millions of shekels per year to protecting those organizations and their activities in the Arab quarters of the Holy City. Its aim is to collectively displace Palestinian families from their homes and city as part of a policy of Judaizing the Holy City and altering its characteristics. The Council warned of the consequences of the bare-faced escalation of Israeli violations, all of which are intended to rob the Holy City and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque of their Islamic and Christian historic and cultural heritage. The international community must break its silence, and Arab and Islamic States must take a firm stance regarding the threat facing the Holy City and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Council urged all States and the United Nations and its specialized agencies to take action in order to cut off the extremist settler groups' sources of funding around the world.

- The Council called on the United Nations entities and the relevant institutions and committees to break their silence regarding Israel's flagrant violations of international law and international humanitarian law in its treatment of

prisoners. Israel's policy of administrative detention has blighted the lives of Palestinian prisoners. The most recent case is that of Muhammad Allan, who has been on hunger strike since 14 June 2015 in protest at his unjust administrative detention. Prison staff have received clear legal permission to commit yet more lethal crimes against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. A racist law has been adopted to authorize the force-feeding of hunger strikers. The Council called on the high contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions to prevail on the occupation government to put an end to illegal administrative detention, implement the Declaration of the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, hold accountable anyone who violates the Geneva Conventions, and secure the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners, particularly administrative detainees. The Council called on special rapporteurs to visit the jails of the occupation and observe the arbitrary repressive measures that are in force. That step is particularly urgent given the recent escalation imposed by prison administrators, including nightly raids of prison wings and cells, a frenzied campaign of abuse and searches, the rescission of the prisoners' achievements and the destruction of their personal possessions.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 550 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 August 2015 (A/ES-10/687-S/2015/616), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer